

**TELEPHONE CONFERENCE MEETING
PROFESSIONAL HYDROLOGISTS SECTION
EXAMINING BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL GEOLOGISTS,
HYDROLOGISTS AND SOIL SCIENTISTS
MINUTES
MADISON WI
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2001**

PRESENT: Stephen Donohue, Herbert Garn, Roger Hall, Robert Karnauskas

STAFF PRESENT: Alfred Hall, Grace Schwingel, Darwin Tichenor,

GUEST: Tony Laenen-American Institute of Hydrology

CALL TO ORDER

Stephen Donohue called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum of four members was present.

AGENDA

MOTION: Herb Garn moved, seconded by Roger Hall, to adopt the agenda
Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1/23/01)

Stephen Donohue noted that his name was incorrectly spelled, as *Steven*, on the second motion under the Election of Officers of the January 23, 2001 Minutes. The 1/23/01 minutes will be amended to reflect the correct spelling of Stephen Donohue's name.

MOTION: Herb Garn moved, seconded by Roger Hall, to approve the minutes of 1/23/01, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Alfred J. Hall Jr., announced that he has accepted another position in the Department with the Division of Enforcement. Katharine Hildebrand has been appointed by Secretary Oscar Herrera as the new Bureau Director for the Bureau of Business and Design Professions.

The Hydrology Section thanked Alfred for the outstanding job he has done in supporting the GHSS Joint Board and Sections and will miss working with him. Alfred reassured the Section members that the Department will continue to provide them with continuing services through Bill Black, Legal Counsel; Clete Hansen, Division Administrator; and Katharine Hildebrand, Bureau Director.

Section Roster

Noted.

2001 Meeting Dates

Noted.

Regulatory Digest Draft Articles

The AIH update will be included in the Digest along with Advisory Committee news. Alfred Hall indicated he will be preparing a letter, dated May 25, 2001, for Stephen Donohue, Chair of the Hydrologist Section, to sign and forward to Senator Grobschmidt and Representative Duff, with copies to Senator Baumgart, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment.

Applications Reviewed

Noted.

To Pass Folder

Noted.

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

Nothing to discuss.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES ISSUES

Nothing to discuss.

SECTION MEMBER ACTIVITY

At the August 29th Hydrologist Screening Panel, two issues to be discussed will be the AIH/DRL Examination Transition update and the appointment of a delegate to the AIH Annual Conference.

The Section members would like an update on the status of the exam issue with AIH that Darwin will be preparing.

EXAMINATION ISSUES

Examination Results

American Institute of Hydrology/DRL Office of Examinations Report of Examinations

Darwin Tichenor introduced Tony Laenen, a representative of the American Institute of Hydrology (AIH) who was selected by the Institute of Hydrology to work with the Department and consider using the Wisconsin examinations for use by AIH as a national licensure examination. Tony Laenen is a member of a committee that has come to the Wisconsin Department of Regulation & Licensure this week to look at the content of the Wisconsin exam, how it is put together, and to

look at the exam process as a whole, in order to come up with some preliminary decisions and ideas about how AIH could incorporate Wisconsin's exam process into a national licensure examination.

Darwin opened up the discussion asking for questions and comments from the Hydrology Section members.

Section Member: What is AIH's position on maintaining this exam?

Mr. Laenen: AIH plans to maintain this exam, on a preliminary basis, for 2-5 years. AIH feels they can maintain this exam out of savings within their organization without deriving any income from the exam. The advantage AIH hopes to gain by administering the exam is to increase AIH membership in Wisconsin.

Section Member: The Department went through a process of determining the practice areas and how many questions should be related to different areas of the practice of hydrology. Was the exam customized to how hydrologists practice in Wisconsin, considering that in other areas of the country hydrologists are not faced with some of the same issues they are faced with here in Wisconsin because of climate factors?

Mr. Tichenor: Conducting a survey is part of our exam development process. The Exam Office did a survey that encompassed the entire country. There was a pretty even split between the Wisconsin and national respondents, so there was a large input nationally from approximately 44 states. After analyzing the results, it was found there was no substantial difference between practice in various sections of the country. The practice of hydrology nationally involves, essentially, the same practice, the same field, the same knowledge, the same tasks. There is support for the fact that the exam is not only useful as a state exam, but is viable for a national exam as well.

Mr. Laenen: With respect to the fundamental exam, we see that it's all-encompassing so that, while not all areas of the country deal with the same weather conditions, the exam does include questions that relate to snow and ice conditions, mountainous areas, and desert conditions.

Section Member: Is there a timetable for taking over the exam?

Mr. Laenen: AIH will determine a timetable and method by which it would administer the exam and it would work with the Department's Exam Office to come up with an acceptable method and timetable before proposing this to AIH's Executive Committee and writing a formal memorandum of agreement.

Section Member: Would AIH be charging an exam fee?

Mr. Laenen: While there will need to be an exam fee to cover costs involved with giving the exam, there won't be a large income from the exam fee, at least not at the beginning, since AIH doesn't anticipate a large number of people taking this

exam right away. In time, there may be a larger income from the exam. There may even be an interest from people outside of Wisconsin who might want to have the Wisconsin registration even if they don't intend to practice in Wisconsin.

Section Member: How does AIH plan to deal with the issue of grandfathering hydrologists in Wisconsin who are currently practicing? Specifically, would reapplications received from hydrologists in Wisconsin who became registered during the grandfathering period, when there was no exam requirement, be automatically accepted or would they have to take the exam or be subject to some form of additional review to become registered under AIH membership?

Mr. Laenen: AIH has their own board review that looks at applicants and their education, including the exam. These types of reapplications would be subject to a review. The qualifications would be very similar in terms of educational requirements, length of practical work experience in the field. AIH may require an additional part of the exam, but this hasn't been decided yet.

Section Member: Does having a Wisconsin hydrology license, by itself, necessarily qualify a person to be a member of AIH?

Mr. Laenen: No. More than likely Wisconsin licensees would qualify to be an AIH member, but it's not guaranteed. Applications will have to be looked at on an individual basis. While the likelihood is that the majority of hydrologists in Wisconsin who were grandfathered in without taking the exam, would probably be able to obtain AIH membership, there may be individuals who, because of some concerns regarding their education or experience, would be subject to some sort of review.

Section Member: How many of your committee members are here at the Department?

Mr. Laenen: We have six AIH members here from different areas of the country. One is from Florida, two from Oregon, and three from the Midwest. AIH also has hired an exam consultant to help with the exam evaluation.

Section Member: Is it the intention of AIH to develop one exam to be administered for AIH registration and also for licensure here in Wisconsin?

Mr. Laenen: That would be an ultimate goal that may or may not ever be realized. Initially, AIH would probably utilize the fundamentals examination as it currently is, using that instead of Part I, of the fundamentals test. With respect to specialties, such as groundwater, and surface water, some concerns AIH has would need to be resolved. AIH has three categories of hydrologists. They also have water quality hydrologists, as well, which would require either another test or some form of evaluation in order to bring in people in that specific category.

Section Member: Would there be a separate set of exams for the state of Wisconsin?

- Mr. Laenen: AIH will not adopt the Wisconsin hydrology examination right away. At this point, AIH will attempt to administer the Wisconsin exam. It would require some time to adopt the examination into the organization of AIH. The ultimate goal of AIH would be to use the Wisconsin examination as its examination. There may be an additional part dealing with ground water, septic water, and water quality components.
- Mr. Tichenor: In the Department's current letter of understanding, there is a ten-year period where the Department would, technically, loan the exam to AIH for it to take over the management of the exam for 10 years. If AIH can maintain the exam and would want to continue to maintain it beyond the ten years, AIH would be able to maintain it as a licensing exam at which time the exam becomes AIH's permanently. If things don't work out well with the maintenance of the exam, the exam would come back to the Department of Regulation & Licensing.
- Mr. Laenen: AIH would like to come away from this week with the Department with a draft of how we plan to accomplish the administration of the exam and the timeframe. AIH will then go back to its Executive Committee with a recommendation for a letter of agreement. If the Executive Committee agrees to it and signs the agreement, that would close AIH's association with the Department.
- Section Member: Does AIH need to make a commitment to offer the exam a certain number of times during the year? Can the number be specified in the agreement? What is being done to make the exam accessible to people taking the exam, for example, will the exam be given on specific dates at multiple locations so that if someone wants to become registered as a hydrologist in Wisconsin, they don't have to fly to New York or San Francisco to take the exam?
- Mr. Tichenor: Yes, in the current preliminary agreement the Department has indicated, as a minimum, having the exam made available at least twice a year. AIH would have the flexibility to give the exam more frequently. There are still many details that have to be worked out yet. The Department still has some minimum requirements before entering into a preliminary phase where the exam is turned over to AIH. AIH is still working out the details on where the exams will be given, but one of the options being considered is using a network of universities and having the exam administered at various universities throughout the country. The Department will recommend that there be standard dates scheduled two to four times a year which would be helpful both to the people who want to take the exam and for the people at AIH who are maintaining the exam. In Wisconsin we would purchase exams from AIH initially and administer them on our standard dates which are twice a year now, in January and July. The examining entity in each state would set up an agreement with AIH and would administer the exam under secure conditions, on standard dates.

We are in a very preliminary stage right now and the Board will be kept informed of any developments and the proposals from AIH regarding the exam. When all of the final details are worked out between the Department and AIH, the final proposal will be presented to the GHSS Joint Board.

Practice Questions

Nothing to discuss.

Miscellaneous Correspondence/Information

Nothing to discuss.

New Business

Nothing to discuss.

Presentation of Proposed Stipulations By The Division of Enforcement

None.

CONVENE TO CLOSED SESSION to deliberate on cases following hearing (s. 19.85(1)(a), Stats.; to consider licensure or discipline (s. 19.85(1)(b)), Stats.; to consider individual histories or disciplinary data (s. 19.85 (1)(f), Stats.; and to confer with legal counsel (s. 19.85(1)(g), Stats.)

Nothing to discuss.

Such Other Matters As Defined by Law

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Herb Garn moved, seconded by Roger Hall to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 25, 2001